Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 13853 191320Z

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SECRET BEIRUT 13853

EXDIS

FOR NEA/ARN DAVID KORN AND NSC STAFFER ROBERT OAKLEY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 TAGS: PFOR LE US

SUBJECT: FRANGIE PIQUE

REF: BEIRUT 13851

1. THIS MORNING EMBOFF CAROLAN AND USAI OFF ROSS SAW TONY DAHDAH RE THE POSSIBLE EXPULSION OF AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST (REPORTED SEPTEL). DAHDAH OBVIOUSLY WANTED TO TALK. HE REVIEWED MUCH OF WHAT TRANSPIRED IN NEW YORK BUT ADDED NO NEW FACTS. HE DID STATE SPECIFICALLY, HOWEVER, THAT WHAT IS REALLY BUGGING THE PRESIDENT IS THE SNIFFING DOGS. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT ANOTHER IMPORTANT FACTOR IS THAT I VISITED THE ISRAELI BORDER AREA ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO AT THE INVITATION OF RAYMOND EDDE, ONE OF OPPOSTION LEADERS. WE HAD IN-TENDED THAT VISIT BE ABSOLUTELY DISCREET USING ONY EDDE'S CAR, AND THAT THERE BE NO RPT NO PRESS COVERAGE. EDDE DID, HOWEVER, INFORM ARMY G-2 WITH THE RESULT THAT WE WERE ESCOTRED BY THREE JEEP LOADS OF SOLDIERS. AT BINT JBEIL WHO JOINED US AND RECOGNIZED EDDE AND MYSELF. HE TELEPHONED AHEAD TO COLLEAGUES ALONG OUR ROUTE SO THAT WE WERE ACCOMPANIED BY JOURNALISTS PRACTICALLY THE ENTIRE WAY. THIS IS INTERPRETED, ACCORDING TO DAHDAH, BY PRESIDENT AND HIS IMMEDIATE ENTOURAGE (FAMILY) AS A MOST UNFRIENDLY ACT ON MY PART. IT. ACCORDING SECRET

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TO DAHDAH, HAS ENVENOMED THE PRESIDENT AGAINST ME AND

HAS ADDED TO HIS CURRENT PIQUE.

- 2. I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS TRIP WITH TAQLA AND BOUTROS DIB AND THEY BOTH AGREE THAT IT WAS NORMAL FOR ME TO ACCEPT INVITATION OF EDDE AND THAT CERTAINLY I AM IN A BETTER POSITION TO REPORT ON LEBANESE MATTERS, HAVING SEEN THE TERRAIN, VILLAGES, ETC. IT IS, HOWEVER, APPARENT THAT THIS VIEW IS FAR FROM BEING SHARED BY FRANGIE OR HIS FAMILY. THE PUBLICITY THE TRIP RECEIVED OBVIOUSLY RANKLES THE OLD GENTLEMAN.
- 3. ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT IS THAT HADDAD HAS JUST CALLED TO SAY THAT TAQLA THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE DIRABLE FOR ME TO BE OUT OF TOWN FRIDAY NOV. 22, AND THEREFORE NOT RPT NOT PRESENT AT BAABDA CEREMONY. I ASKED HADDAD IF THEY WOULD EXPECT USG TO BE REPRESENTED BY DCM AND HE SAID HE WOULD WANT TO SEEK TAQLA'S VIEWS. I TOLD HADDAD THAT I WOULD HAVE TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS MATTER. I WAS OF THE OPINION THAT SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO TAQLA PROMISING AN INVESTIGATION, ETC., THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO FRANGIE AND MY OWN PERSONAL APOLOGIES, WERE ABOUT ALL THAT COULD NORMALLY BE EXPECTED FROM REASONABLE MEN.
- 4. HADDAD ASKED ME NOT RPT NOT TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS YET FOR HE DESIRED ONCE AGAIN TO SPEAK TO TAQLA.
- 5. TAQLA IS CURRENTLY , 1330 HOURS LOCAL, CLOSETED WITH FRANGIE. HADDAD ASSUMES HE IS DELIVERING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND TRYING TO ASSUAGE HIS CHIEF.
- 6. FOREGOING AND REFTEL ARE MUCH TOO DETAILED REPORTS BUT I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD HAVE THEM AS BACKGROUND FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

 GODLEY

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